

CONNECTED

February 2002



BLW Raises Water, Sewer Rates

On Dec. 10, 2001, the Board of the BLW voted to increase water and sewer rates by 5 percent, and to pass through an increase in wastewater treatment charges implemented by Cobb County Water. Overall, the effect of the two changes is an increase of \$1.7 million, or 8.6 percent. The new rates took effect on January 1.

The increases are necessary in order to fund a substantial program of capital improvements to the water and wastewater systems. Over the period between 2002 and 2010, the BLW expects to invest more than \$30 million in both new construction and renewal and replacement of its existing infrastructure. This investment is necessary to assure that we can continue to provide reliable service and clean water.

The increase will not be precisely 8.6 percent for all users. The following table shows the percentage increases for various usage levels, measured in thousands of gallons per month:

Thousand Gallons	Present Cost	New Cost	Percent Increase
0	\$15.64	\$16.93	8.2
1	15.81	16.93	7.1
2	15.64	16.93	8.2
3	21.54	23.39	8.6
4	27.44	29.83	8.7
5	33.34	36.29	8.8
10	62.84	68.55	9.1
50	292.84	320.27	9.4
100	577.84	632.27	9.4
1,000	5,707.84	6,248.27	9.5
5,000	27,387.84	28,608.27	4.5
10,000	54,487.84	56,558.27	3.8

The average residential customer uses about 4,000 gallons per month.



Tips to Help You Conserve Water

A Guide to Winterizing Your Pipes

- Drain water hoses and store them for the winter. Frozen water can cause a hose to crack and ruin.
- Cover and wrap all outside faucets with faucet covers, wrap rags, paper, trash bags, or foam. If possible, shut off the water from the inside valve and then turn on the outside faucet; this will drain all of the water from the pipes and reduce the chance of freezing.
- Insulate your outdoor water meter box, and make sure the lid is on tight.
- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Remember: the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.
- Seal leaks that allow cold air to get inside where pipes are located. Use caulk or insulation to keep that heat in; even a tiny opening can let enough cold air in to cause a pipe to freeze.
- Cover any vents around your home's foundation.
- Allow your faucets to drip to keep water running through the pipes. ⚡



Spring into Spring

The first day of Spring, or the Vernal Equinox, falls on March 20 this year. Because the number of days in the year is not a whole number, the sun does not arrive at the Vernal Equinox at the same date every year. *Vernal* means spring; *equinox* means equal night: this holiday marks the time when day and night become equal once more. Also called the Spring Equinox, it is one of the four great seasonal changes that occur each year.

Interesting fact: Earth and nature are said to be in harmony if an egg can be balanced on its end during the Equinox, at the very point in time, when day and night are also in balance. According to folklore, the Vernal Equinox is the one time of the year that eggs can be stood on end. ⚡



Celebrate National Women's History Month



International Women's Day was first celebrated on March 8, 1911, in Europe. In 1978 in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began Women's History Week. The week of March 8 was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day. Three years later, Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the President has issued a proclamation of the month annually since then.

"Women Sustaining the American Spirit" is the theme for National Women's History Month 2002. The goal is "to showcase the diverse and interlocking stories of women who have created and affirmed the American spirit." For more information on National Women's History Month, visit the National Women's History Project website at www.nwhp.org. ⚡

Please Note:

The Marietta Power office will be closed
March 29, 2002.

February 2002 Calendar of Events

February 23

*The Cobb Symphony Orchestra presents
"A Night at the Movies: Classic Westerns"*
Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, Marietta
8 p.m.
Admission. Call for tickets & information.
770-528-8490

March 16

Vive La Symphonie Gala
Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Cobb Galleria
7 p.m.
Admission Call for reservations.
404-314-3317

March 23

*The Cobb Symphony Orchestra presents
Beethoven Symphony No. 9*
Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, Marietta
8 p.m.
Admission. Call for tickets & information.
770-528-8490